



How to Take Care of a Dog

A dog is an excellent addition to your family, but it is important to take care of it properly! Follow these directions for maximum success with your new dog:

1. To get your dog used to your house, guide the dog around the house.
2. Take the dog to the vet right away to get some shots. This for a puppy will have to happen every 6 months.
3. Get some chew toys (especially for puppies) to help with teething.
4. Groom your dog's ears once a week (clean ears, clean teeth, etc...)
5. Wash your dog once a week in the tub with dog shampoo and warm water.
6. Brush your dog once a week to avoid hairballs.
7. Feed your dog a balanced diet with 50% carbs and 50% meat or protein.
 - a. Either dry or can food.
 - b. The amount depends on the type of dog (pregnant, puppies, working and active dogs need MORE food).
 - c. You can feed your dog table scraps, but no more than 10% of its daily intake of food (chicken, rice, scrambled eggs, veggies, fruits).
8. Give your dog a LOT of exercise to control the amount of excess digging, chewing, and chasing and to help burn calories.
 - a. The amount depends on the type of dog, age, and level of health.
 - b. They love jogging, walking, Frisbee playing and fetch.
 - c. START OFF SLOW, some dogs don't know when to stop.
9. SPEND A LOT OF TIME WITH YOUR DOG! Owning a dog is a TRUE pleasure!



http://www.calpots.com/pet_store/dog_care.html

How to Take Care of a Parakeet

If you like birds, a parakeet will make an excellent pet, but you must know how to take care of it! Check out the IMPORTANT steps to follow below...

First gather the important materials: a cage, toys, food, cuttlebone, and mineral block (importance described below).

1. Prepare the cage.

- Line the cage with paper towels or copy paper and change them regularly.
- Set up the cage with perches, water and food dishes and toys.
- Toys are needed to keep the bird entertained (boredom can cause screaming) and healthy.
- Set the cage in a place away from windows, with little direct sunlight, where other birds can be seen so the bird will not lose human interest.
- Clean the cage bars regularly with soap and water.

2. Have your bird checked by a vet.

- This should happen when you first buy the bird and then once a year to check your bird's health.

3. Change the food and water daily.

- Keep the water fresh and clean!
- Let the bird get used to you and the surroundings, doing nothing but maintaining his food/water and cage, before trying to train the bird to perch on your finger.

4. Feed your bird a healthy pellet diet.

- Seeds are a very common source of bacterial infection, and can easily lower the health and lifespan of your bird.
- Some seed may be acceptable as a treat for birds that don't exhibit susceptibility.
- There are many types of pellets. Try different kinds to see which your bird likes best.
- A bird needs to adapt to pellets by using the following steps:
 - Leave pellets in a food dish in cage at all time.
 - Give birds seed for only one hour in the morning and one hour at night.
 - The rest of the time they have to snack on pellets.
 - Generally, the 10% of parakeets which don't switch in two weeks will switch after a short period of reverting to a seed diet.



5. Add fresh food frequently.

- Don't leave this food in a cage for more than 4 hours!
- Never feed your parakeet chocolate, broccoli, avocado, coffee, alcohol or salt. They are poisonous to your bird.
- Food can be clipped to the bars of the cage or chopped small in a food processor and put in a bowl.
- Feed fresh vegetables such as kale, beets, peas, carrots, parsley, cooked yams, sliced apple, citrus, and the like.

6. Try to interact with your birds daily for at least 30-90 minutes.

- Without regular and sufficient attention, they will lose interest in human interaction.
- A way to interact with your bird is to sing together, give it baths and if it seems to be rapidly dropping a mobile toy, pick it up. There is a chance it is trying to play a game with you.
- If you will be away for long periods of time, consider getting your parakeet a companion parakeet, or play music so it doesn't get lonely.

7. Let your parakeet exercise.

- If trimmed, just have a decently big cage with good toys and give the bird some play time out of a cage every day.
- Let them climb and play on safe things.
- A play gym is a great way of exercise.
- NEVER leave your bird alone in a room out of the cage!



8. **Talk to it.**

- A good way to get them happy is to talk to them, let them climb up on your finger by pushing a little bit on their stomach, and saying "Step Up."
- By continuously saying that, they will start to say it by themselves, and will "Step Up" whenever they say it (which will usually be when they come to a stair/ledge).

9. **Sleep.**

- Parakeets need 10 hours of sleep a day.
- They get most of it at night, and nap during the day at times. A low TV is okay. Keeping the cage covered helps them feel safe and sleep better.

WARNINGS:

- Parakeets get very cold, very quickly. Make sure you keep your pet in a warm environment. If you let your parakeet take a shower, be sure to dry it with a towel afterward.
- Birds naturally hide their illnesses to avoid looking vulnerable to predators, so you need to be very alert to know if your bird is behaving unusually or too lethargic. Take them to a vet if behavior is strange.



- Trim the bird's wings but just so that it cannot fly away when full feathered. Be careful of blood feathers, feathers with coverings and blood in them. Trim the toe nails when sharp. Beaks can be trimmed with an emery board. See your avian vet for details.
- Be particularly careful of fumes, sprays and chemicals in the house, as parakeets are very susceptible to them.
- Parakeets are attracted to shiny things. If you let your bird fly loose, be careful in the kitchen! Lots of sharp and/or dangerous things (e.g., mirrors framed with painted wood or near toilets, open toilets, sinks, knives, mixers, etc.) are attractive to them.
- The sap on evergreen trees is poisonous to many tropical birds, so if you have a live wreath or Christmas tree, please put the bird in another room far away from even the odor of the evergreen. The bird might be attracted to the shiny decorations, so be very careful.

<http://www.wikihow.com/Take-Care-of-a-Parakeet>